


A Ham's Silent Key Guide

Dino Papas KLØS

For the Raleigh ARC July 11, 2023



A cartoon illustration showing an elderly man with a walker and a younger man standing in front of a house. The house is filled with clutter, including a refrigerator, a television, a chair, and various boxes and items. The elderly man is speaking to the younger man, who is looking at the cluttered interior. A speech bubble from the elderly man contains the text: "One day Son all this will be yours."

One day Son
all this will be
yours.



George Ulm
W9EVT (SK)
December 2022



Who am I?

WN6FZN
 Corte Madera, Calif. 94925

Radio _____ Confirming our AM QSO
 ST-CMT on _____ 19__
 At _____ Mc. Mtr. RST _____ Rvr. _____
 Xmr. _____ W. Hrp. Ant. _____
 Remarks _____ Pse QSL Tnx

164 Lakeside Drive 73, Constantine T. Papas

WB6FZN
 Constantine T. Papas
 164 Lakeside Drive
 Corte Madera, California 94925

RADIO _____ This confirms our QSO
 of _____ 19__ at _____ GMT.
 Ur signals were RST _____ On _____
 Transmitter _____ Ant. _____
 Receiver _____ Rmz. _____

2d 73

WB6FZN/KL7
 364 H 6th Street
 Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505

Dino Papas

WB6FZN/4
 Cumberland County CONSTANTINE T. PAPAS

3505 Sugar Cane Circle Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

VIRGINIA
WB6FZN/4

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	DATE MONTH YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY

Dino Papas
 11 Glen Forest Dr.
 Hampton, VA
 23669 USA
 10-X #36023

Pse QSL Tnx QSL A WAMPY QSL

KANSAS
 LEAVENWORTH COUNTY
WB6FZN/0

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	DATE MONTH YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY

DINO PAPAS
 602-B South 13th
 Leavenworth, KS
 66048 U.S.A.

Pse QSL Tnx QSL A WAMPY QSL

ALASKA
AL7LZ

DINO PAPAS
 1302 B. BASTOGNE COURT
 FORT WAINWRIGHT, AK 99703

TO RADIO	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	RST	2-WAY	MHz

CONFIRMING QSO

RIG: _____ ANT: _____

PSE QSL TNX

DINO TOBY
KLØS KLØSS

DINO and TOBY PAPAS
 603 Lakeland Crescent
 Yorktown, VA 23693
 U.S.A.
 York County • Grid FM17

STATION	DATE DAY MONTH YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY

Pse QSL Tnx Request QSL

DINO TOBY
KLØS KLØSS

DINO and TOBY PAPAS
 119 Constance Avenue
 Williamsburg, VA 23185
 U.S.A.
 James City County • Grid FM17

STATION	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				

Pse QSL Tnx



Hobbyists Collect Stuff!



Philatelists



Model Train Enthusiasts



Numismatists



Pannapictagraphists

Hams Also Collect Stuff!



K8NB QST Article (April 2018)

The Inventory List



Inventory tag number 14:

This 1943 Vibroplex Lightning Bug, serial number 125445, is complete and operational.

It has had some parts replaced with original Vibroplex parts.

This bug would sell for around \$100 in 2017.

Noel Beardsley, K8NB

At some point, each of us will become a Silent Key, and someone will have to deal with our collection of possessions, including our Amateur Radio equipment. Whoever has to sort through and dispose of our equipment may have very little knowledge of what the equipment is, and what it is worth. Personally, I would like to make things as easy for my family as possible after I pass away. I would also like to ensure they get fair value for all of my gear.

Put Together an Inventory

I suggest that you put together a complete inventory of your equipment, with the corresponding current market value for each piece. Though there are many cataloging systems to employ, I decided to use a single page for each item of equipment. I typed pages on my

KLØS QST Article (Sep 2019)

Silent Key Estate Planning — A Guide

A ham who has assisted with several Silent Key estates offers advice for helping your family — or the families of your ham friends — figure out what to do with a loved one's gear.

Dino Papas, KLØS

Each of us will inevitably become a Silent Key someday, and unfortunately that day may arrive unexpectedly. We need to prepare ahead of time to make it as simple as possible for our families, the majority of whom are probably not hams, to know what to do with our equipment.

Many of us take the time to ensure that our wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and advanced medical directives are current, but few of us pay attention to what will happen to our radio-related belongings. Families who don't know what these specialty items are worth may turn to a one-time estate purchaser who removes the burden of a lengthy disposal process — at least one such estate buyer advertises in the back of *QST*.

Some families may want to memorialize their departed ham by donating the ham's equipment, technical library, QSL cards, and other items to worthy hams or ham organizations. Local Amateur Radio clubs may also offer a service to dispose of a deceased ham's possessions (if not, talk to your club's leadership about organizing such a program).

Hams who have prearranged the disposition of their equipment stand the best chance of making sure their wishes are fulfilled — and that their family recoups a realistic amount from the sale of the items.



An inside view of Ron Pollack's, K2RP, Lysco Model 600 transmitter, prior to restoration. This classic radio would be difficult to value, especially for a non-ham, as it has a unique history and has been modified. Including this as an item on an inventory list would be a great help to your loved ones, with details about its functionality, history, part replacements, and estimated value. [Ron Pollack, K2RP, photo]

Planning Ahead: Tips for Hams

- ✓ Have a current will (or a trust, if appropriate) and an advanced medical directive in place.
- ✓ Tell your family how to report your passing to ARRL for inclusion in *QST*'s Silent Keys listing.
- ✓ Direct your family to the FCC's website (<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/cancelling-license-universal-licensing>) for information on how to cancel your Amateur Radio license or how a family member can initiate a request to be assigned your call.
- ✓ Create a file or binder that includes your important ham radio-related documents. Keep it in an accessible place that your family and a ham representative know about.
- ✓ Consider drafting your own obituary and including information about the ham radio part of your life.

Designating a Representative

Because family members may not know our ham friends, it's a good idea to designate a willing and able ham friend to act as your ham estate representative. Being active in your local Amateur Radio club can offer a source of hams who may be willing to assist your family. Once you've chosen a representative and they have agreed, you can host a joint meeting with them and your family's decision makers to ensure the ham part of your estate will be handled the way you want.

Donation Options

If you want to donate equipment directly to other ham family members, friends, or your club, then you should make those wishes known

Ok, I like things organized...

Obsessive-compulsive disorder

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Some first thoughts

- We all have an expiration date...
- Prepare ahead of time
- Do you have a will?
- Do you have a living trust?
- Do you have powers of attorney?
- Do you have a medical directive?
- Front-door medical binder?
- Do you have someone identified to help your family with your ham radio estate?



Make a Plan

- Everyone's situation is different
- Have a plan to dispose of your hobby stuff
- Maximize return or be generous
- Choose a friend
- Have a meeting
- Document your plan!
- Club member assistance
- Club formal/semi-formal committee
- Your obituary???

Club Membership



Pre-Disposal

- Calculus of time
- Donate?
- Sell?
- Auction?
- Hamfests?
- For sale lists?
- Plan and act ahead of time?

Estate Buyers and Equipment Sellers



Ham Radio Estate Auctions KØIP

100% Positive feedback 4.2K Sold 69 Followers

[Share](#) [Contact](#) [Save Seller](#)



Specializing in Ham Radio, Vintage Audio and Antique Radios

[View Current Auction](#)

[Home](#) [Auctions](#) [Buyers](#) [Sellers](#) [Other Services](#) [About Us](#) [Blog](#) [Contact](#) [Q](#)



Ease your family's burden when you become an SK

Ham&HiFi

J D Auction Services

SK Reporting

- Non-ham notifications
- FCC – cancel license OR transfer callsign
- ARRL QST Silent Key Column
- QRZ.com
- QSL Bureau(s)
- Hobby email reflectors
- Other ham group relationships

Other Issues

- Account access
- Passwords & Security Questions
- 2-Factor authorizations
- Computer code author?
- DXpedition logs
- Club or MARS Equipment
- ARRL Estate Planning Workbook

QSL Card Collections?

QSL CARDS FROM THE PAST



By: **W8JYZ**



The legacy of "Old Time" Ham Radio Operators can be found in the QSL Cards they left behind. This Website is dedicated to those Old Time Radio Operators.

I have a Collection of Old (US and Canadian) Ham Radio QSL Cards dating from the early 1920s.

A complete list of Old QSL Cards now totaling more than 56 THOUSAND can be accessed by clicking on the [Master File Database Link](#) below. Over 22 Hundred Online Scans of Old QSL Cards are also available by clicking on the required Scan Link.

I now have over 5000 NOVICE cards listed in the database. Improvements and updates will continue to be made, as the Collection grows and I learn more about this WEB PAGE DESIGN "stuff", so check back often.

Helping the Family

- Are you willing to help?
- Periods of grief vary
- Ask how you can help
- Involve yourself only with the ham radio estate
- Ensure they know it will take time
- Family may not be hams & not know worth
- What is salvageable?
- Decide how to proceed



Helping the Family



- Donate?
- Sell?
- Auction?
- Equipment testing
- Hamfests?
- For sale lists
- Keep good records of your work
- Provide proceeds to family quickly



Classifieds Home				View Sold Ads	Search
Date Time	Post By	Item Caption	Category		
2021-06-07	KR2AA	WTB: Mosley MP-33-N Traps	HF Antennas		
2021-06-07	N7RAK	ICOM IC-746PRO WANTED!	HF Radios		
2021-06-07	N5ID	Wanted: RM Italy BLA 350 amp	HF Amplifiers		
2021-06-07	K9DTC	YAESU FT-2900R/E 2 METER PARTS OR REPAIR	VHF/UHF Radios		
2021-06-07	WA1GZY	SALE! Breedlove Fold Over Mobile Mount	VHF/UHF Antennas		
2021-06-07	N4DEK	WTB: 3CX1200A7 Tube	Tubes		
2021-06-07	KF6JS	Icom IC-04A/AT/E Manual and Schematic	Manuals		
2021-06-07	N5DWP	Wanted: Yaesu FT3-DR	VHF/UHF Radios		
2021-06-07	K6RO	Remoterig RRC-1258MkII-S Boxes , cable kit ++	HF Radios		

Memento Collection for the Family

- Gather a few small things:
 - call sign badge
 - ham related pictures
 - newspaper articles
- Collect it all and present thoughtfully at an appropriate time



Are you prepared?



When will you become
a Silent Key?

Have you made it as easy as
possible for your family?

Time to get ready is now...

73 and GL
de KLØS!

(kl0s@arrl.net)

"I have a soldering iron
and I'm not afraid
to use it!"



